



Feb. 2. 1855
N. W. cor. Fourth & Chestnut St.

To Readers and Anxious Inquirers.

J. E. L.—We do not know of any particular sketch of the history of Gray's Ferry which has been published. In old records, in the proceedings of Councils before the Revolution, &c., it is called "The Lower Ferry," and was established at the commencement of the city. It must have been kept by the Grays from a very early period. In Scull's Map, published in 1750, the Grays are marked down as owners of land above and below the lower ferry. After the Revolution, one of the Grays laid out a public garden on the west side of the river, which became a great place of resort. A visit to Gray's garden and ferry was very popular, and gradually the name "Lower Ferry" was dropped, and Gray's Ferry substituted. The first floating bridge there was built by the British, whilst they were in possession of the city, and the structure was renewed afterwards as occasion demanded, until the large bridge now standing was built by the Philadelphia and Baltimore Railroad Company, about 1836 or 1837. In April, 1789, General Washington passed over Gray's Ferry bridge, which was decorated, on his way to New York to take his seat as President of the United States. A plate representing the decorations on the occasion, with a description of the house and grounds, will be found in the Columbian Magazine for that year, also a description of a celebration of the Fourth of July there.

CHEAP LIGHT.—Obtaining artificial light at a cheap rate is one of the problems of the age, and every step in advance, in that direction, is deemed important. Gas is, so far as science has progressed, undoubtedly the cheapest and best medium, and consequently the nearest approach to the great desideratum. To obtain the greatest possible amount of light from a given quantity of gas has been the study of skilful mechanics for years. We were invited yesterday to inspect a newly invented gas-burner which combines the important advantages of an increased quantity of light from a diminished supply of gas. The new invention is what is known as the Double Jet Gas-burner. It consists of two distinct jets from one stem, the jets of gas from each coming in contact and blending together just outside the orifice. Every consumer of gas has noticed a blue appearance just beyond the burner and within the border of the flame. This blueness is caused by the gas which has not yet absorbed sufficient oxygen for combustion, and much of it must necessarily escape and become wasted before it ignites and possesses an illuminating power. In the double burners the opposing jets operate as a check upon each other and allow the oxygen to combine with the gas as soon as it escapes from the burners, and thus effectually prevents waste. But the proof of the pudding is in the eating of it, and we last evening saw the new burner fairly tested with the old, with the aid of a watch and the meter. The result of the experiment was that with a uniform head of gas on, the double burner was ten minutes and twelve seconds consuming one cubic foot of gas, while the usual fish-tail burner consumed one foot in eight minutes and twenty-eight seconds. At this rate the common burner would burn $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet of gas per hour, while the double jet would supply a much better light with a consumption of 5 feet per hour. This is a clear saving of about 30 per cent. Messrs. Baker & DaCosta are the inventors of the new burner, and their names will be found stamped upon all genuine articles. Their invention may be seen in operation at De Silva's segar store, 7th street above Chestnut.

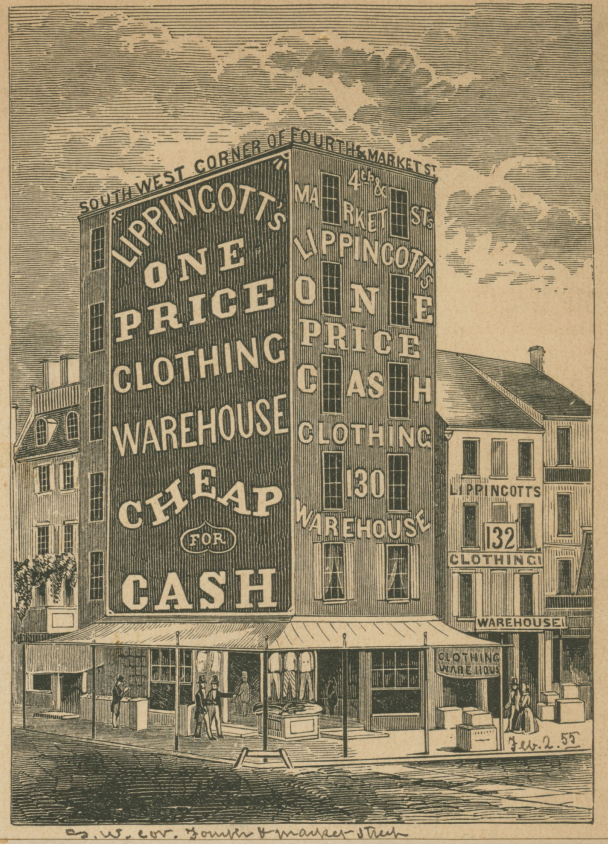
Sept. 1855

The Germantown Gas Company.—The Gas Company of the 22d Ward has now been in existence upwards of three years. The works are located at the junction of Wistar street and the Germantown Railroad, and consist of retort and purifying houses, a building for the storage of coal, and a gas holder forty feet in diameter, and 16 feet high, besides other necessary apparatus. The building for the storage of coal is of sufficient capacity to contain 500 tons. The gas holder stores 20,000 feet of gas—but the Company expect to make material enlargements during the month of July next, by extending the retort house so as to accommodate 9 additional benches of retorts, enlarging the coal house to enable it to hold 2000 tons, and erecting another gas holder, 60 feet in diameter. Within the old township of Germantown, there are now laid 11 miles of gas mains, extending from Nagle's Hill on Germantown Avenue—through the old borough—Mount Airy and Chestnut Hill, to Thorp's lane, on the Perkiomen Turnpike, and along the Bethlehem Turnpike to the Montgomery County Line Road. There are nineteen cross streets in the 22d Ward supplied with gas; 375 consumers are registered, and 370 meters are in use. Besides these, there are 120 public lamps within the limits of what was formerly the borough of Germantown; being the average of one lamp for every 500 feet of main. Two tons of coal daily are used at the works, furnishing 15,000 feet of gas.

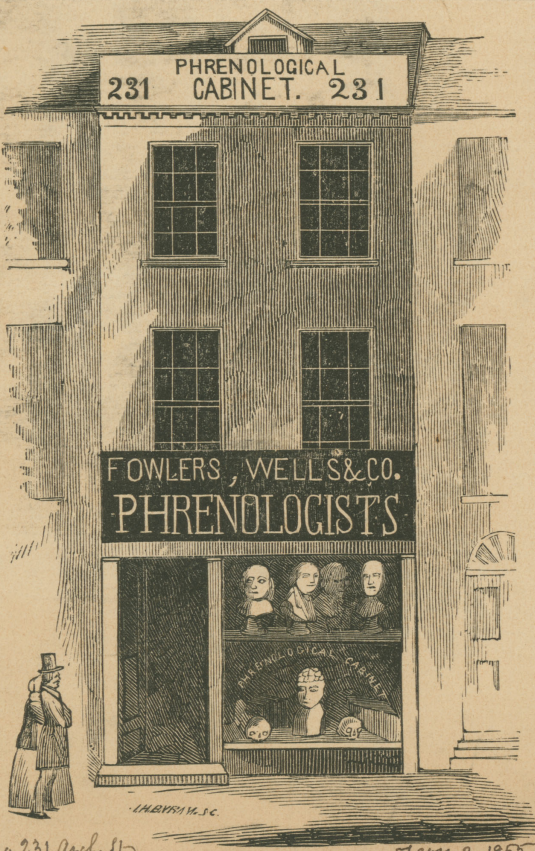
June 4, 1855.

A PUBLIC CONVENIENCE.—Whatever opinion may be entertained concerning the appearance of the Ugly Fence in front of the lot formerly occupied by the National Theatre, on Chestnut street, and now graced by the ruins of that ill-fated establishment, it must be universally conceded that Mr. Isaac Brown Parker, the owner of the property, is entitled to the distinction of being the friend and patron of all bill-stickers. Every board in the Ugly Fence is made the bearer of some announcement which is interesting, either to the free and independent electors of the city; to the seekers after amusement, or to the invalid. The latter are affectionately admonished to try Dr. Pillgarlick's universal remedy for all the ills that flesh is heir to; the passer-by is anxiously questioned as to whether he has the headache, or is troubled with fits, and the only place where the genuine patent and approved annihilator of worms is to be found, is modestly proclaimed in letters a foot long. The politicians have not been slow to avail themselves of the facilities afforded by Mr. Parker's Ugly Fence to announce to the public their willingness to serve the "dear people" in some office where the labors are light and the pay heavy. These unobtrusive patriots have not hid their light under a bushel, so far as the Ugly Fence affords them a medium for letting the refulgent rays meet the public gaze. Full length portraits of Yankee story tellers, Ethiopian dancers and singers; and scenes from blood and thunder melo-dramas, all grace the enclosure. We repeat, that whatever views may be entertained concerning the general appearance of the Ugly Fence considered as an ornament to Chestnut street, there can be no diversity of opinion as to its utility in a bill-sticking point of view.

May 17 1855



PENNSYLVANIA.—St. Jude's Church Philadelphia, was opened last Sunday after its late remodelling, and is now one of the most beautiful churches in the city. The walls and ceiling have been entirely kalesmined of a light color, and the wood work painted oak. The transepts have been entirely opened, that portion which was formerly occupied by Sunday Schools now being arranged for pews. The organ has been removed to the foot of the Church and has been enclosed for the choir,—and the difficulties attending the heating are entirely removed. We are particularly glad to learn that the congregation is greatly improving and that there is every probability of the church taking at an early period the high position which its beauty and its situation invite. Oct. 6-1855.



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No. 236 Market Street - Feb. 2. 1855.

Syracuse, N.Y. at 25